

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FORMS OF LITERATURE: SHORT STORY
ENGL 2341.87

NOTE: This is a 5-week, online course.

DR. JESSICA H. ZBEIDA

Forms of Literature: Short Story

ENGL 2341.87

Course Description:

The study of one or more literary genres including, but not limited to, poetry, fiction, drama, and film.

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites:

ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or its equivalent with a grade of C or better.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

The Forms of Literature courses offered by the English Department introduce students to various genres of literature. This short story section offers a survey of short forms of fiction from the 19th century to the present. Students will analyze the techniques of short fiction with a focus on plot, character, setting, point of view, style/tone, and symbolism.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Jessica H. Zbeida

MCC E-mail: jzbeida@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: (254)299-8949

Office Location: Faculty Office Building (FOB), 113

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TTh, 10:00 am – 11:30 am (online)

Other Instruction Information: To arrange a video conference outside of office hours, please contact me by e-mail 24-48 hours in advance.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology*

Editor: Beverly Lawn

Edition: 5th ed., 2016

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's

ISBN: 978-1319035389

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-

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Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

*** [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace \(https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html\)](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)**

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Core Objectives for Language, Philosophy, & Culture:

Courses in this category offer a broad survey overview and a foundational basis for general education within the liberal arts. It also prepares students for further study in literature.

- **Critical Thinking (CT):** Requires creative innovation in interpretation, inquiry, and analyses of a wide variety of texts and a synthesis of texts with secondary sources.
- **Communication Skills (COM):** Require effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Social Responsibility (SR):** Requires consideration of other cultures and other time periods, which in turn leads to knowledge of civic responsibility in regional, national and global communities. This knowledge prepares students for an understanding of the effects of good social responsibility, as well as the consequences of the lack thereof in communities, nations, and the world.
- **Personal Responsibility (PR):** Includes skills in connecting choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making, as demonstrated in the wide variety of texts covered in these classes.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this literature course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.

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3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

All literature instructors will use an internal rubric constructed by the English Department. Because of the variety of genres and time periods covered in literature classes, all grading will be direct and will assess the following skills: critical thinking, on the basis of interpretation, analysis, and synthesis of texts using primary and secondary sources; communication skills, on the basis of interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication; social responsibility, on the consideration of other cultures and time periods, leading to awareness of civic responsibility in regional, national and global communities, as well as the consequences of failure to adopt or to apply standards of social responsibility; and personal responsibility, based on the consequences of interconnected choices and actions related to ethical decision-making, as demonstrated in the wide variety of texts covered in literature classes.

Basic Paper and/or Presentation Rubric

Criteria	Outstanding	Proficient	Basic	Below Expectations
Critical Thinking	-Shows originality of thought and logical connections. -Demonstrates excellent ability to describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and engage in intellectual inquiry with regard to course materials.	-Shows less originality and may have major logical flaws. -Demonstrates good ability to describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and engage in intellectual inquiry with regard to course materials.	-Understands readings but limits focus to ideas discussed in class. -Demonstrates inconsistent ability to describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and engage in intellectual inquiry with regard to course materials.	-Fails to comprehend basic and other course concepts. -Unable to describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate, or engage in intellectual inquiry with regard to course materials.
Communication	-Clear main idea with supporting organization and developed examples and explanation. -Excellent awareness of communication situation, including audience, topic, and position as speaker/writer.	-Shows a clear main idea but might have minor lapses in organization, less developed examples and explanation. -Communication shows good awareness of rhetorical situation and matches the work to that need.	-Shows competence but has weaker or unfocused main ideas, organization, and few developed examples and explanation. -Communication shows awareness of rhetorical situation but does not fully meet its needs.	-Fails to show basic competence in developing, organizing, and/or presenting ideas and supporting content. -Fails to adapt language, content, and structures to match rhetorical situations.

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Mechanics	-Demonstrates thorough command of format and language, with few or no grammar, spelling, or diction errors.	-Shows competent command of format and language, with few and generally minor grammar, spelling, and diction errors.	-Shows basic competence with format and language but may have frequent minor or occasional major grammar, spelling, and diction errors.	-Fails to show basic competence with format and language, exhibiting many grammar, spelling, and diction errors.
Social Responsibility	-Consistently recognizes and connects choices, actions, and consequences to outcomes affecting others.	-Frequently recognizes and connects choices, actions, and consequences to outcomes affecting others.	-Acknowledges and understands connections between choices, actions, and consequences to outcomes affecting others.	-Fails to recognize or acknowledge connections between choices, actions, and consequences to outcomes affecting others.
Personal Responsibility	-Completes all assigned tasks by deadlines; work is thorough, insightful, and comprehensive.	-Completes almost all assigned tasks by deadlines; work is generally thorough but may show minor shortcomings or gaps.	-Makes most deadlines with occasional major or frequent minor lapses in responsibility; work meets minimum requirements.	-Fails to connect choices, actions, and consequences with ethical responsibilities; work is often late and/or of poor quality.

This course uses a variety of learning activities and assessments to measure students’ mastery of the material. Throughout the course, students will complete:

- Assigned Readings, reading quizzes, discussion posts, and short writing exercises
- Two timed exams (Mid-Term and Final) consisting of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions
- Two essay assignments (1000-1200 words, one involving research)
- An Informative Website (completed in small groups)

Course Outline or Schedule:

All assignments are due on the date specified by 10:00 pm Central Time. This list does not include assigned reading. Please print or download a copy of the detailed course schedule with assigned reading posted in Brightspace (see “Course Introduction”).

Week 1 7/8 – 7/12	<p>Start Here: Syllabus & Course Introduction Units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review syllabus, instructor information, & course schedule; get textbook • Participate in “About Me” discussion forum; meet peers from class • Watch “Reading & Writing about Literature” and “Literary Thesis Statements” video presentations.
<p>Work Due: Syllabus Quiz (7/9); Discussion Post #1 (7/11); Literary Thesis Statements exercise (7/11); Complete Assigned Reading (Lawn and Charters; Chopin, Ellison, Jackson, and Atwood).</p>	

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<p>Week 2 7/13 – 7/19</p>	<p>Unit 1: Plot & Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in “Plot and Conflict” discussion forum. • Print/Download Essay #1: Close-Reading/Explication assignment; watch “Essay #1 Walkthrough” and “Close-Reading” video presentations. • Watch “Intro. to MLA Format” and “Avoiding Plagiarism” video presentations; review additional resources on close-reading, developing a claim, and MLA format in Brightspace. • Prepare a draft of Essay #1 and submit to SmarThinking; forward confirmation e-mail to Dr. Zbeida (jzbeida@mclennan.edu)
<p>Work Due: Discussion Post #2 (7/18); MLA Format & Plagiarism Quiz (7/18); Submit draft of Essay #1 to SmarThinking (7/19); Complete Assigned Reading (Faulkner, O’Connor, Walker, and Oates).</p>	
<p>Week 3 7/20 – 7/26</p>	<p>Unit 2: Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise & Submit Essay #1 in Brightspace. • Participate in “Character” discussion forum. • Watch “Integrating Scholarly Sources” video presentation; review additional material on summary, paraphrase, and quotation in Brightspace. • Print/Download the Mid-Term Exam Review packet; use it to study. • Print/Download the “Informative Website” assignment; sign up for peer group for informative website via link posted in Brightspace.
<p>Work Due: Essay #1: Close-Reading/Explication (7/22); Discussion Post #3 (7/25); Integrating Scholarly Sources Exercise (7/25); Mid-Term Exam (7/26); Complete Assigned Reading (Charters; Silko, Kincaid, Cisneros, Alexie, and Groff).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Last Day for Student-Initiated Drops with a Grade of “W” – July 29th, 2020</p>	
<p>Week 4 7/27 – 8/2</p>	<p>Unit 3: Point of View & Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete “Informative Website” discussion forum with group members. • Participate in “Point of View & Setting” discussion forum. • Print/Download Essay #2: Comparative Analysis assignment; watch “Essay #2 Walkthrough” and “Comparative Analysis” videos. • Watch “Library Walkthrough” video; find 3+ academic sources for Essay #2 from MCC’s library. • Prepare a draft of Essay #2 and submit to SmarThinking; forward confirmation e-mail to Dr. Zbeida (jzbeida@mclennan.edu). • Begin preparing Informative Website with group members.
<p>Work Due: Informative Website discussion forum (7/27); Discussion Post #4 (8/1); Submit draft of Essay #2 to SmarThinking (8/2); MLA Scavenger Hunt (8/1); Complete Assigned Reading (Kafka, Garcia Marquez, Carver, and Bambara).</p>	
<p>Week 5 8/3 – 8/9</p>	<p>Unit 4: Style, Tone, & Symbolism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in “Style, Tone, & Symbolism” discussion forum. • Watch “Informative Website Walkthrough” and “Designing Effective Websites” video presentations.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with peer group members to prepare and revise Informative Website (preferably using Wix); one group member must upload a link to your published site in Brightspace. • Complete Peer Evaluation forms for each member of your group and send via e-mail to Dr. Zbeida (jzbeida@mclemman.edu). • Print/Download a copy of the Final Exam Review packet; use it to study.
Work Due: Essay #2: Comparative Analysis (8/5); Discussion Post #5 (8/9); Informative Website (8/9); Final Exam (8/10)	
Week 16 8/10 – 8/11 Finals Week	Finals Week (No Class) <i>Work Due: Final Exam due Mon., August 10th, 2020, by 10:00 pm.</i>

Course Grading Information:

Students' final grades are determined as follows:

Course Component	Description	Percentage
Essays	Two Assignments (1000-1200 words in length); may require the use of scholarly sources	30%
Homework	Includes short writing exercises, quizzes, discussion posts, and SmarThinking submissions	10%
Participation & Attendance	Average of weekly participation & attendance grades	10%
Exams	A Mid-Term and a Final Exam, which consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions	40%
Informative Website	Website prepared in small groups that extends our understanding of one or more works from the assigned reading (use visuals, media, etc.).	10%

Essays

Students will complete two essay assignments: a Close-Reading/Explication Essay (1000 words) and a Comparison & Contrast Essay (1200 words; requires three scholarly sources). A detailed assignment prompt and grading rubric for each assignment appears in Brightspace. All essay assignments are submitted in Brightspace—upload your attachment in .doc or .docx format. I strive to provide feedback within one week of submission.

NOTE: All essay assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection tool available in Brightspace. This software compares submissions to material in Turnitin's database, which includes work submitted by other students and information available online. When an essay is uploaded in Turnitin, it becomes part of the database. **If you attempt to reuse an essay that was prepared for or submitted in another course (a form of plagiarism called multiple submission), you risk serious academic consequences, such as receiving a failing grade for the assignment or the course and other disciplinary action.** In addition, if you plagiarize in this course by using a source inappropriately or passing off another person's ideas or writing as your own, you may receive a failing grade on the assignment or in the course and face other disciplinary actions, such as a student referral.

Homework

Students will complete several homework assignments over the semester, including writing exercises, quizzes, and discussion posts. For each essay assignment, students also submit a draft of their work to SmarThinking for review; this counts as a homework grade (drafts must be submitted at least **48 hours before** the assignment due date). All homework assignments are completed in Brightspace. Quizzes are automatically graded. I strive to provide feedback for writing exercises, discussion posts, and other exercises quickly, usually within 2-3 days. ***Please notify Dr. Zbeida if you receive accommodations, including extra time on quizzes and exams, so she can adjust the assignment.***

Participation & Attendance

Though this course takes place online, regularly attendance is required. Each week, students receive a grade for participation and attendance. To receive a grade of 'present,' students must ATTEMPT at least one of the assignments due that week. This does not mean students have to get a good grade on this assignment—it merely must be attempted. Students are allowed ONE excused absence from the course; this attendance grade is dropped and does not count toward the average. Students who are absent for more than one attendance grade will receive a lower participation & attendance average. *Students who miss two or more weeks of the course and fail to submit major assignments may be dropped from the class.*

If you have an academic, military, or family obligation that may affect your ability to participate in class during one week of the course, please contact me by e-mail as soon as possible to discuss your situation. Students are welcome to work ahead, and I do my best to accommodate students' requests.

Exams (Mid-Term and Final)

Students will take two exams in class during the semester: a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams will include: a multiple-choice section, a short-answer section, and an essay section. A review packet for both exams will be posted in Brightspace. Students have two hours to complete each exam. Both exams require students to use Respondus LockDown Browser, which is available for free from MCC (see the Student Resources Module). **If you have a disability and**

receive accommodations, such as additional time on exams, please contact Dr. Zbeida in the first two weeks of the semester so she can make appropriate arrangements.

Informative Website

In small groups (3-4 students), students will create and publish an informative website that extends or expands the class' understanding of one author, short story, genre, or literary term discussed in class. If you haven't built a website before, I recommend you use Wix. All websites should include a "homepage" and at least three "child" pages, and should integrate images, media, and source materials to engage the audience. **Students receive a portion of their grade (40 points) for this assignment from their group members and a portion from Dr. Zbeida (60 points)—students who do not participate may receive lower grades.** Students can find a detailed description of the informative website assignment and grading rubrics in Brightspace.

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

I do not accept late work without a compelling reason (such as a serious illness/hospitalization, car accident, etc.). If something unexpected happens that may affect your ability to complete an assignment or an exam, you should contact me by phone or e-mail immediately. Make-up work is allowed solely at Dr. Zbeida's discretion. **For major assignments, like essays, I deduct five points for each day late until the assignment is submitted. Essays more than one week late may receive a "0" grade.**

Revision Policy: Students may submit revisions of graded essay assignments. When students receive their graded assignment with comments, they have **ONE WEEK** to revise the assignment. The revision should be sent as an e-mail attachment to Dr. Zbeida. If time allows, students *may revise more than once until they receive a grade of 90 or above*. Each revision should involve careful thought and reflection on higher-order concerns (like the thesis, development, and organization) and lower-order concerns (like grammar and mechanics). **When you revise, you may earn up to 50% of the points you missed back until you receive a 90 or above.** So, if you submitted an essay assignment and got a 60, when you revise you could earn up to an 80. If you revised and got an 80, you could revise again and get up to a 90.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

In a course that focuses on literature and culture, controversial subjects may arise. **Students are expected to treat all participants in the course with respect.** This is particularly important for online discussion and peer review where success depends on our ability to communicate effectively and to listen to one another. In all class assignments and interactions with other participants in the course, you should **AVOID making any comments that belittle or attack someone else.**

Students are also expected to engage in class discussion and to participate regularly in the course. **Students who disrupt the learning environment (making offensive comments in the discussion board) will be marked absent for the week and the content will be removed.**

Make up work will not be allowed in such cases. *If you notice behavior that you find threatening or inappropriate, please contact Dr. Zbeida or another MCC campus official* (See Title XI Statement below).

[* Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

[* Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

Accommodations/ADA Statement

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

[* Click Here for more information about Title IX](#)

(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

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McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

** You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*